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Sen. Patterson introduces Safe Patient Care legislation

LANSING – Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, introduced Safe Patient Care legislation today, which would require healthcare facilities to appropriately set registered nurse-patient staffing ratios and limit the practice of mandatory overtime for nurses.

“Michigan must move quickly to save the lives of patients being treated in our healthcare facilities,” Patterson said. “Our state has reached a critical nursing shortage and we must take action now to help nurses. I am working with health care leaders to draft legislation that saves both patient lives and health system money.”

Patterson outlined his plans for Safe Patient Care legislation to more than 600 nurses and nursing students at the annual Nurses Impact meeting last month at the Lansing Center. Nurses Impact is an annual meeting sponsored by the Michigan Nurses Association and the Coalition of Michigan Organizations of Nursing.

“Mandatory overtime for nurses is unhealthy for our health care system,” Patterson said. “Despite their personal dedication and professional commitment, overworked, exhausted nurses can make mistakes. Liability and death costs caused by the risk of medical care mistakes have helped to dramatically increase health care costs to families.”

Patterson serves as vice chairman of the Senate Health Policy Committee.

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